

"Charting the Landscape/Mapping New Paths": Project Descriptions

- 1. Project Name: Every Child Ready to Read. Public Library Association.**
- 2. Goal: Implement the PLA model early literacy program in public libraries; and provide libraries the tools needed to teach parents and caregivers the importance of early literacy and how to develop critical pre-reading skills so that every child enters school ready to learn to read.**
- 3. Participating institutions/agencies: The Public Library Association and the Association for Library Service to Children/divisions of the American Library Association.**
- 4. Your role/expertise in this type project: This project was an initiative of the PLA Board. As executive director of PLA I was responsible for ensuring that the special task force appointed to develop the program and educational materials had the resources they needed to accomplish the task. Responsible for budget and policy issues and board education about the project. Provided a staff member to liaison to the task force for the day to day work of the project.**
- 5. Outcomes / successes to-date: The task force has developed a training kit that was released in May 2004 available for purchase. To date over 300 kits have been purchased by libraries who are implementing our early childhood programming.**
- 6. Lessons learned : Clearly delineate the roles and responsibilities of the joint project committee and staff liaisons. Because we were working with another division of our parent organization (the American Library Association) we did not prepare a partnership agreement as we would have done with an outside agency. We should have. A partnership agreement would have clearly defined roles and responsibilities of staff, members and contractors to the project so that everyone was on the same page from the beginning of the initiative.**

7. If we began anew we would ask these questions at the beginning: What strength—that we ourselves don't have—does the partner bring to the table? What level of engagement in the project is appropriate and necessary from our partner? What is the organizational and staff commitment from our partner to this initiative?
8. Critical success factors: Clearly articulating roles and responsibilities; developing a timeline and sticking to it.
9. Our next steps will be: To be determined. Early literacy is very important to the Public Library Association and it is a focus of our strategic plan. However, next steps relating to the work of this specific task force have not yet been determined.
10. What else?